

Chapter VI - Community Activities.

It was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Brodie in 1907, that the Women's Institute first organized their local branch, naming it the Mapleton Institute, with Mrs. D. D. Finch as its first president and Leota Cloes, followed by Mrs. John Brodie as its first secretaries.

Later the name was changed to Kingsmill - Mapleton Women's Institute

The following ladies from this district served as presidents:-Mrs.

D. D. Finch, Mrs. D. O. White, Mrs. James Moore (Sr), Mrs. J. Cline, Mrs. D. Caughell, Mrs. J. Bray, Mrs. Mahlon Bray, Mrs. Roy Charlton, Mrs. J. B. Drake, Mrs. Bruce Brown, Mrs. Wm. Orris, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. James Moore (Jr)

It is interesting to note that during the first world war, the Kingsmill-Mapleton Institute decided to establish a canning centre for the preservation of surplus fruits, vegetable and fowl for the use of our boys overseas and again Mr. Brodie came to the front and graciously loaned the 'Butter' room of his factory, for this purpose. Ladies came from Sparta to Belmont, from west to east to do their bit. The result was 6313 cans, valued at \$ 4081.60, sent to cheer our boys.

Another outstanding movement in the community during World War I, was the Literary Society, which was organized by the young people of the district and was held, during the winter months, in the school house.

Of such excellent quality were the programs given, that the house never failed to be packed to the doors and many were the comforts, our boys, overseas received from the proceeds of this enterprise and great was the intellectual and cultural growth of those, participating.

Also, during those trying years, the Institute staged a large garden party, each summer, turning over from \$500. to \$1,000 from each toward the war work.

Thus did our women stand shoulder to shoulder with our men and thus was the neighbourhood bound by a common purpose.

Chapter VII - Village Of Mapleton.

In the early days when men had to team their grain over mud roads, for long distances, it was natural that you would find 'taverns', along the way, where horses and men could be fed and refreshed; and so we find one at the north west corner of the intersection of the 11th concession and the Mapleton-New Sarum road. This old Crossroad tavern was sold in 1915 to Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Charlton, who used it as their private residence. The building has since changed hands several times and now has a grocery store in a part of it.

It was a happy day when John Wismer bethought himself to start a general store just south of the corner on the Culver Farm. This store was operated first by himself, then by William Appleford, John Dean and Phillip Boughner. In the meantime, Mr. Wismer went across the road and built another store, on the north east corner of the cross roads. This store was operated first by the Wismers, John and Steven and then sold to Benjamin Knight, who in turn, sold it to P. Boughner. Mr. Boughner, becoming ill, sold it to Thos. Mc. Kee and he, to W.A. Barons, who in 1911, sold it to the Bray sisters, who owned it until

it was sold to Earl Mc.Kenzie.

In the early days, these stores served in turn, as post office, the mail being drawn by horse and cart from Kingsmill. The Mail couriers were: Lansing Johnson, T. Hammond, and George Mc.Caulley.

Thos. Hughes, a cousin of Judge Hughes of St. Thomas and his bride came out from England in these early days, built a home and started a butchering business on the corner, just north of the first store. To him, we owe the naming of Mapleton, from the fine maple trees which bordered his lot and which he pruned and tended with greatest care. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes had two sons, George, who went to Michigan and became a superintendent of Public schools; and Thomas, who also went to Michigan and became an instructor in law in the University of Ann Arbor.

Thomas Yee was another English family to early establish themselves in a home just north of the second store. There were three children in this family - Rhoda, who went to Detroit and married, William, who went to Michigan and became a successful lawyer. He also served several terms as representative of his constituents in the State Legislature and James who became a successful business man in Saginaw, Michigan.

When the new school was built at the foot of the Mapleton hill, the old 'Blue 'school was sold to Ralph Fonger, who made it into a residence. He built a blacksmith shop in the Culver field on the south east corner of the intersection and it was here that first he, then Thomas Stanley, then Samuel Bancroft lived and plied their trade for many years. Mr. Bancroft moved away and his place was taken by W. Cloes. In a few years, however, Mr. Bancroft returned and erected a new shop on the west side of the road, which he operated till ill health and death claimed him. This place is now owned by Percy Drake, the shop having been turned into a garage.

The J. Grady house and store is situated on the north side of the Bancroft property. This property was sold to William Davies, in 1949 and in 1951 to Mr. Ian Mc. Keller.

In the flats just west of the old tavern, Seth Thompson erected and operated a grist mill, in the early years of the century. This was then torn down and W.A. Barons, who was then general merchant built a new mill, just back of the store on the site of the old 'Blue' school house, which had by this time been moved to Lyons. W.A. Barons, in time, tore down this mill and now Keith Drake ~~has~~, returned from more than five years service overseas, is operating another mill on his property on the west side of the village.

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Chapter VIII - Mrs.Durdle.

The story of this community would not be complete without mentioning Mrs.Mary Durdle,a little English lady,who lived on the plot of land, across the road from the Bray's,which now is included in the Eardley Finch farm.

Mrs.Durdle had three children and after they had grown up and established homes of their own,she eked out a living from the products of her garden and vineyard.

In those days,Canada had few if any clothing manufacturers,so the busy farm women looked to Mrs.Durdle to do their knitting and make large straw sun hats,which their men and children required.It was a hey day in the lives of the Bray children,when after the wheat was garnered into the barn,Mrs.Durdle would come over to get her bundles of straw. The wheat was gathered into small bundles and the heads chopped off, to save the grain.The the straw was unjointed at the first joint and soaked in a rain barrel till it was soft.

She then braided it and sewed it into hats.

With all this labour,Mrs.Durdle found time to cultivate her small English flower garden,with its hyacinths,cowslips,and daisies,which were a marvel and a delight to all who beheld.

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Chapter IX

Peter McNeil.

Peter Mc.Neil was born at Kames,Lochowside,Scotland in 1816.Mancy Turner was born in Cowal,Argyleshire in 1824.They were married May 12th,1845.Three years later they sailed from Greenock,Scotland for Canada.They first came to Mt.Albion,near Hamilton,where an Uncle,Duncan Turner,had preceded them by eight years.After a short stay,they came on to South Dorchester,where other relatives had settled.

Peter
Mc.Neil

They were among the first to unite with the Mapleton Church a few months after its organization in 1850 and were active members of this pioneer Church during their life.

A Carpenter by trade,he built the house,where Fred Brown now resides and lived there almost twenty years.Here seven of his children were born.

Copy from his memorandum book :- " Aug.10th 1870 - I Peter Mc.Neil bought this 50 acres(Lot 14 in the 12th concession from Robert Putnam for the sum of \$1,200.00.I am to pay Thomas Penhale a mortgage of this sum at 8% interest."

It was on this property that he built and established the home where the children grew to man and womanhood and where he passed away in 1884.This house is now occupied by a Dutch family.

In 1873 the following entry was made in his record book :-"Money made from all sources / Milk \$280. Barley 56½ bus at 96¢- \$54.24, Lambs 602, 303, - \$21.00, Made at my trade \$ 139.65, Total - 414.89"

The next year,his income increased to \$ 643.87.

In 1876,he bought of John Biggars, 50 acres(Lot 15,Con.II) Interest on Mortgages paid at this transaction was 10% and 7%.

The Family :-

Agnes born at Lochgilhead,Dec.24th,1846.On May 4th,1875 she married David Cropp of Aylmer.After his death,she spent several years in Simcoe and in Saskatchewan with different members of her family.She returned to Ontario and passed away at the home of her daughter Annie(Mrs.Harry Collier)in Ridgetown in 1932.

Mary Born in Mt. Albion Jan. 16th, 1849. On Jan 18th, 1870 she married John Turner of Mt. Albion. After his death, she moved with her family to Hamilton.

Euphemia born in Springfield Feb. 15th 1851. She married Thomas Belmore Mar. 3rd 1875. They farmed for a time on the 9th concession of Malahide, then moved to Lyons and later to Springfield for Over Thirty years.

Christina born in Dorchester April 14th, 1855. On Feb. 12th 1883 she married Darius Appleford. They farmed on the 11th concession where George Brown now lives for 27 years, then bought and moved to a farm west of Talbotville, where their son Harley now lives. She passed away at the home of her daughter Eva (Mrs Harry Thomas) St. Thomas Jan. 18th, 1935.

John born in Dorchester Aug. 8th, 1857. He married Alice Inglis of Aylmer Dec. 29 1896 and live on the 11th concession where William and Kathleen Matthews now live. He died June 26th, 1901.

Eliza born in Dorchester Sept 21st, 1859. She married Abraham Kennedy Oct. 9th 1883 and lived on a farm near Ridgetown for 25 years, then moved to Saskatchewan. She died Dec. 20th, 1948 at the home of her daughter Alma (Mrs. Ray Coates) Melfort Sask.

Isabel born Dec 10th, 1861. In later life she lived with her sister Amelia (Hawes) She died Aug. 25th, 1916.

Peter Born Jan 9th, 1864. On Dec. 22nd, 1891, he married Ida Sowler and farmed on the 11th concession where his son Lorne now lives. On June 1920 he moved to Orwell and lived there until his death Jan. 13th, 1937.

Amelia born Aug. 26th, 1867. On Dec. 13th, 1898 she married Herbert Hawes and lived on the farm west of her brother Peter's (where Keith Heipleigh lives for several years, later moving to a farm near Ridgetown. After her husband's death, she spent a few years in Windsor and is now living with her daughter Helen (Mrs. Jas Kelly) Shelbyville. Tenn.

James born Sept 13th, 1869. On Feb. 24th, 1897, he married Linda Tapsall and farmed the homestead until his death on Feb. 9th, 1908.

When James married, Grandma McNeil went to live with Amelia and passed away at her home near Ridgetown on June 13th, 1910.

Certificate of



Achievement

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH

This is to Certify that Miss Marjorie Stover

has satisfactorily completed two Units of the Homemaking Club Programme.

Sleeping Garments Bring Till Pressed and Till Good

and is awarded this Certificate of Achievement.



Mary A. Clarke
Superintendent of Women's Institute Branch

Carrie P. Taylor
Home Economics Coach

Date July 16, 1940

County



Honours

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH

This is to Certify that Marjorie Stover

has satisfactorily completed Six Home-Making Units of Work and is awarded County Honours

Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed Cotton Accessories for the Club Girl's Bedroom

Clothes Closets up to Date Sleeping Garments the Club Girl Entertains

the Club Girl Stands on Guard



Mary A. Clarke
Superintendent of Women's Institute Branch

Helene F. Mason
County Coach

Date July 5 1941

Certificate of



Achievement

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH

This is to Certify that Marjorie Stover

has satisfactorily completed two of the Home-Making Projects

"Cotton Accessories for the Club Girl's Bedroom" Clothes Closet
Up-to-Date

and is awarded this Certificate of Achievement.



Mary A. Clarke
Superintendent of Women's Institute Branch

Currie P. Taylor
Home Economics Coach

Date July 21 1939



The Kingsmill - Mapleton Busy Bees!
The "Sleeping Garment" Project.

Spring 39
1940



Front row (left to right) - Helen Howe, Helen Hadham, Jean Massey, Pauline Foster.
Back row (left to right) Mrs. C. Hoover (leader), Marjorie Stover, and Mrs. C. Cline (assistant leader).